Anti-Slavery Office,

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Dec. 10, 1853.

Dear Garrison:

I have just finished the reading of Frederick Douglass's twelve columns of vituperation, poured upon the heads of his old friends. What an exhibition of moral perversity, blindness and malice! The spectacle is indeed painful, but I think we may congratulate ourselves that, at last, the mask is dropped, and he stands before the world an avowed enemy instead of a secret, stealthy foe. My apprehention is, that, of all the seceders and apostates from our ranks he will prove the most malignant in spirit, the most efficient and sleepless in his hostility.

But what shall we do with his long replication? Must the columns of the Freeman, Liberator & Standard groan under its "enormous" length? Of course, the spectators of the quarrel will be ready to charge us with unfairness toward Douglass if we refuse him the fullest hearing. The Standard might justly enough copy his special reply to itself, omitting the rest of the diatribe; but I am in doubt whether it is best to take this course, or to publish the whole. Will you be kind enough to give me your opinion by Wednesday next, at farthest?

Douglass evidently thinks he has exploded a bomb-shell in our camp, and that we shall exhibit the utmost trepidation and alarm in consequence. It strikes me that the character of his reply is such as to require very little notice. Indeed, I am not sure but the best course for you and the rest of us would be to publish it without a word of comment. My present impression is, however, that it will be enough for the *Standard* to insert what he says of it, with a quiet remark, to the effect that Mr. D. having at last thrown off the mask and avowed himself an enemy of the Am. Soc., the object we sought is attained, and there is no longer any occasion for controversy with him. Do you think this would be the best course?

Please, when you write, to tell me whether your interview with Mrs. Stowe was pleasant and satisfactory. I am anxious to learn what is her state of mind, and what impression appeared to be made upon her.

With kindest regards for your family, I am, dear Garrison,

Yours, warmly,
O. Johnson.

O. Johnson, Dec. 16, 1853.